

[16th Century]

/32 cont. /

175 according to what they say. It¹ is crossed on a remarkable
 [49] contrivance, peculiar to the Indies, a straw bridge placed on
 [824] the water itself, which is of such light material that it does
 not sink, and it is a very safe and easy crossing...there grow
 large quantities of a type of reed that the Indians call totora,
 which they use for a thousand things, because it is food for
 pigs and for horses, and for the people themselves; and with it
 they make house and fire, and boat and whatever is needed;
 [101] so much do the Uros find in their totora. These Uros are so
 brutish that they themselves do not regard themselves as men.
 It is said of them that when asked what people they were they
 replied that they were not men but Uros, as though this were
 [36] another class of animals. Entire pueblos of Uros were found
 living on the lake on their totora rafts, joined together and
 fastened to some large rock, and they may fetch themselves off
 from there and move a whole pueblo to another location; and
 thus when sought today where they were yesterday, no trace of
 them is to be found, or of their pueblo..../Translated from
 the Spanish. /

(Historia natural y moral de las Indias /Natural and Moral
 History of the Indies/, 1590. Book II, Chap. VI.)

Noticia sobre los Indios Uros en un Memorial de la Epoca del
 Virrey Toledo /Note on the Uro Indians in a Memorial of
 the Epoch of the Toledo Viceroy/.

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 [48]
 [511] The Inca, being below Lima, sent one of his captains,
 called Casiracapo, to those heights with many men, to survey
 the land and recount to him what he saw there, /33/ and while
 traveling through the land he came across some people whose
 dwellings were like those of animals, and who lived in them
 like brutish animals, around a large Lake, naked, and eating
 nothing but roots of plants that grew in the Lake, and some
 Fish if they caught it, and when the Captain saw these people,
 [1928]
 [599] he recounted the fact to the Inca and was sent by him to re-
 move them from the Lake and resettle them among the

¹[ie., Lake Titicaca outlet--Auzof]

[16th Century]

/33 cont./

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[95] Neighboring Pueblos, and he removed and resettled them:
[96] The damage they caused in the places where they were /re-
[97] settled/ was such, since they stole all they could, that the
[98] inhabitants, unable to bear with it, asked Casiracapa to rid
them of those people, because they robbed them, ate their
livestock, and were not useful in any way whatsoever; the
Captain advised the *licia* of this and he was ordered to return
them to the Lake from which he had removed them, and to
threaten them with the death penalty if they were to leave it;
[90] these people of whom I speak are called Uru, the lake where
[91] they were found is that of Paria where they are now plying their
old trade, which is to steal and to eat; some have set up small
[92] villages, and they go out to steal, and it is astonishing what
is said of these Indians, that they steal from the herders who
live there a haul of pigs and eat it in one night, which if so
many people did not attest to it would not be believable; I
have ascertained that three Indians stole 12 sheep from the
area and ate them in two days without leaving anything usable;
they are infidels in addition. Your Excellency would perform
a great service to Our Lord by removing them from there so
[93] that they and their descendants might become Christian, and
giving them lodgings of some sort because their feet dwellings
defy description. /Translated from the Spanish. /

(Document contributed by Dr. Raul Porras Barrenechea.)

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Visita de los Indios de la Provincia de Chupisco que estan en
cabeza de S. M. Lima, 1568. /Visit of the Indians of the
Province of Chupisco Who Are on the Register of H. M. Lima,
1568/.

[14] This document from the General Archives of the Indies in
Seville (A.G.I.), Justicia section, File No. 479, was analyzed
by Mario Helmer in these Travels, III, pp. 115-120, 1951.